



Travis County Emergency Services

Emergency Management, Fire Marshal, Medical Examiner, STAR Flight and Technology and Communication

August 28, 2012

Travis County to Observe National Preparedness Month in September

Today, the Travis County Commissioners Court issued a proclamation urging residents to use the month of September as a time to prepare for emergencies. Wildfires, tornadoes and flashfloods are just a few of the destructive events that impact Travis County. Annual National Preparedness Month reminds Travis County residents and our neighbors that preparing for emergency is a necessity.

There are practical steps that each person in the County and surrounding areas can take to prepare for emergencies. Go to Ready.gov for more information on these important steps:

1. **Have a disaster supply kit** that includes enough non-perishable food, one gallon of water per day per person, prescription medication and other supplies, such as flashlights, batteries and a first-aid kit. When Emergency Management recommends that residents shelter in place, these supplies are important to have ready.
2. **Monitor news reports** for directions on what to do during emergencies. Remember that there may be no electricity, so a battery-powered or hand-crank radio is recommended. If there is cellular service, go to local news stations for information. The Travis County Web site, Co.travis.tx.us, and Travis County Emergency Services Facebook [TravisCoEmergencyServices](https://www.facebook.com/TravisCoEmergencyServices) and Twitter @TravisCountyES pages also provide minute-by-minute updates during emergencies. Know your evacuation routes.
3. **Have a plan** that extends from home to vehicle, workplace and other locations. Remember to have supplies at all locations, and keep vehicle fuel tanks at least half full. Also plan for specific types of emergencies, such as wildfires, by following the *Ready, Set, Go!* brochure at co.travis.tx.us/fire_marshal/.
4. **Prepare your community** for emergencies. Eleven Travis County communities are officially designated "Firewise" communities, which means that they have taken significant steps to prepare for the threat of wildfire. Learn more at firewise.org.

Travis County residents who prepare for emergencies decrease the impact of disasters on themselves and loved ones. They also recover faster and can help others affected by emergencies.

For more information, contact Travis County Emergency Services Public Information Officer Lisa Block at 512-854-7954.

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